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WE NOMINATE

Gordon Gowans Sikes, Princeton University's 51-year old Undergraduate Counsellor, whose retirement this week from the ranks of intercollegiate crew coaches brings to a close a memorable era in American athletics. A long-working, enthusiastic executive, currently charged with the responsibility of maintaining liaison between graduating seniors and the work-a-day world, Sikes' career symbolizes the University's transition from the 1920's and 1930's to the whirl of the post-war present, a period in which it is well nigh impossible to combine coaching with an exacting administrative position.

A native of Buffalo, N. Y., Sikes first appeared on the Princeton scene as a member of the Class of 1916. Cheerfully disregarding the after-effects of infantile paralysis, he reported for crew and for the next 34 years helped prove that crew is "essentially a religion, rather than a branch of athletics." Sikes, Treasurer of the 1948 Olympic Rowing Committee, has made so many lasting contributions to crew that his other achievements have escaped highly merited notice.

In 1919, after serving the American University Union in Paris, he became assistant to the Secretary of the University and continued his amateur coaching for which he has never received a penny of remuneration. From 1919 until 1931 Sikes founded and developed his "first love," lightweight rowing, and in 1932 assumed direction of all of Princeton's crew activities. He made rowing history by lining up an all-amateur coaching staff and by compiling, within the space of five years, a winning record which showed 10 triumphs and seven "seconds" in a total of 19 varsity races.

The pressure of every-day work, made increasingly heavy by the addition of advisory duties in connection with the University's \$2,000,000 Class Memorial Insurance Program, brought about his "first retirement" in 1937. However, in 1943 and again in 1945 he returned to the lakeside at the request of Marine and Naval Trainees. For the past two seasons he has held forth, as admiral of the Tigers 150-pound fleet, but now, except for officiating and vicarious participation in crew races wherever they may be held, he is stepping down for good—the last of the amateur coaches in the "big-time."

For providing the kind of leadership that led a Marine orator to pause during a 1945 naval graduation to hail "The best Marine of them all, Gordon Sikes;" for his outstanding service to the Princeton Y.M.C.A.; for his heartfelt desire to extend assistance to any young man who might stand in need of help; he is TOWN TOPICS' nominee for

PRINCETON'S
MAN OF THE WEEK
July 20-26, 1947

PATRON

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Town Topics

Published Every Thursday throughout the Year

DONALD C. STUART, JR.
DAN D. COYLE
Editors and Publishers

Mailed without charge every week to every home in Princeton Borough and Township.
Advertising Rates on Application.

Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. II, No. 19 July 20-26, 1947

Topics of the Town

New Slant to an Old Problem.
After a public hearing and executive session lasted some three hours Tuesday night, the mayor and council adjourned without passing the Greenholm ordinance in final form. The measure to create a parallel street to Nassau will be given renewed consideration at 8:30 next Tuesday.

Mid-way through what was shaping up as a routine session, with those already known to be against the move airing their protests, former mayor Charles R. Erdman, Jr. arose to speak. The gist of his comments: he felt the municipality would "pay through the nose" for going through the middle of Greenholm; he was sure a "vastly greater" sum than the \$40,000 now appropriated would be necessary to buy rights of way; and he himself had "some time ago" abandoned the theory that Greenholm should be split, believing now that a road to the south of that area should be constructed, opening up Bank Street and eventually meeting Boudinot.

Dr. Erdman's statement that he had decided some time since that the road should not bisect Greenholm caused surprise to a number of his former associates who are Borough officials. After six months of continuous debate, the problem had suddenly acquired a new slant: if the measure is passed this month and condemnation proceedings are still in progress when Dr. Erdman returns to office next January, will he back the ordinance as it was approved or will he seek to follow the theory he advanced Tuesday night?

Volunteers Welcome. First steps to form a Princeton Citizens Committee will be taken in Borough Hall Tuesday
(Continued on page four)

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It's New to Us

Innovation. We hope we'll be pardoned for a bit of self-back-patting when we state that *numerous* requests have put an idea in its editors' heads which is a distinct innovation as far as TOWN TOPICS is concerned. It seems that TOWN TOPICS is a success as far as it goes, but for some people it doesn't go far enough. Those people range from inhabitants of communities just outside Princeton Borough and Township to ex-Princetonians who have asked if there is a way whereby they can continue to get it.

So—TOWN TOPICS, now available on a subscription basis for \$1.50 a year, will be mailed anywhere in the country. Shopping-column conscious as we are, may we toss in the suggestion upon this occasion that we have made upon others: for a small but, we hope, satisfactory and continuing, gift to former Princeton residents who wish they still were, how about a subscription to T.T.?

We do wish to emphasize, however, that the opportunity to subscribe in no way changes the original status of TOWN TOPICS. If you live within Borough or

(Continued on page seven)

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page two)

night at 8:15, with every resident of the community eligible to join. The new organization is being formed in the belief that a coordinating body, which will neither infringe upon or duplicate the efforts of other groups already functioning, will be of value to the town.

Problems for solution may be suggested to the committee by any member or by any organization. Matters of physical expansion and development, of the enactment of legislation beneficial to the community, of the preservation of Princeton as one of the nation's finest residential communities, are expected to fall within the committee's sphere.

For Princetonians who had long wanted to partake in a community enterprise but somehow had never made the first move, Tuesday's meeting seemed to be the answer. Imaginatively directed and efficiently run, the committee would be of unending service to a town expanding faster than its progress could frequently be charted.

Spys or Souvenir Hunters. Week ago, The New York Sun claimed the post-war scoop: secrets of the atom bomb stolen from Oak Ridge, its headlines screamed in type only a size smaller than that which hailed V-J Day.

When the pair of ex-Army sergeants whom the FBI says are guilty were apprehended, one of them proved to be

(Continued on page eight)

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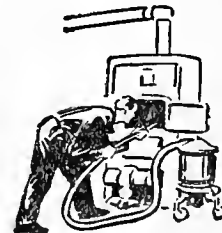
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Calendar of the Week

Sunday, July 20th

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.
 11:00 a.m.: Sermon, the Rev. Victor B. Stanley Jr., Trinity Church.
 "Fishers of Men," the Rev. Dr. Frank S. Niles; First Church.
 "Beyond Restoration," the Rev. Dr. William L. Tucker; Second Church.
 "Life," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.
 Sermon, the Rev. Lynn H. Corson; Methodist Church.
 Lutheran Service of Worship; Chapel, Westminster Choir College.
 Friends Service of Worship; Murray-Dodge Hall, University Campus.
 Noon: House-to-House Collection of Scrap Paper, sponsored by Charles Robinson Post No. 218, American Legion.
 8:00 p.m.: "Adorning The Doctrine," the Rev. Dr. Niles; First Church.
 8:15 p.m.: Evening Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Monday, July 21st

Opening of Westminster Choir College's Summer Session.
 8:30 p.m.: Free, open-air movies, part of Princeton Playgrounds Program; High School Athletic Field.

Tuesday, July 22d

8:00 p.m.: Open Meeting for formation of Princeton Citizens Committee, Borough Hall Auditorium.
 Borough Council Meeting; Public Hearing to consider Greenholm and Veterans' Housing Ordinances; Borough Hall.
 Borough Board of Education Meeting, Princeton High School.

Wednesday, July 23d

8:15 p.m.: Mid-Week Services; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Thursday, July 24th

6:15 p.m.: Twin-M League Baseball: Princeton vs. Princeton Junction; Brokaw Field, University Campus.
 9:00 p.m.: Block Dance, part of Princeton Playgrounds Program; High School Athletic Field.

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News of the Theatres

The Playhouse

The Ghost and Mrs. Muir (Fri., Sat.) has Gene Tierney in the somewhat imaginative position of writing the memoirs of a ghostly sea-captain, who haunts the cottage she has rented. Rex Harrison is the romantic wraith in a British film whose weak moments fully offset the better scenes.

Possessed (Sun. thru Wed.) is a well-acted psychological drama which investigates the workings of Joan Crawford's mind when the man she loves sets her down and the woman she is nursing commits suicide. Unusual photographic and story treatment delve into the hallucinations she suffers. Raymond Massey and Van Heflin aid her in a good but somewhat involved story.

Fiesta (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) is Esther Williams' latest musical with bullfighting and a Mexican setting providing the background. Strictly routine.

Garden Theatre

Dark Delusion (Fri., Sat.) allows Lionel Barrymore to bumble his way through another five-and-dime plot about the troubles Hollywood is sure physicians encounter.

Stairway to Heaven (Mon., Tues., Wed.) is a British-made fantasy about a pilot (David Niven), plunging to earth in a burning plane, who is saved from death because he is so deeply in love. Technicolored, impressionistic drama takes over in an interesting attempt at greatness that falls short of the mark.

Home in Oklahoma (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) casts Roy Rogers as a country newspaper editor who helps solve a murder in a typical western.

The McCarter

Gloria Swanson holds sway this weekend in the farcical comedy "A Goose for the Gander." Next week, "Dear Ruth," another farce about a gleeful adolescent who runs her family ragged in an effort to do her part in the war effort. Obviously somewhat dated.

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IT'S NEWS TO US

(Continued from page three)

Township limits, your copy is just as free as ever.

Worthy of Male Attention. Although the Student Tailor Shop in Murray-Dodge Hall on the campus is an establishment of long-standing, its "open-to-the-public-door" policy is not only fairly new but almost unknown to said public. Judging by what we saw there, any well-dressed Princeton male will gain by the knowledge.

Under the skilled and imaginative management of Eric Mihan, assisted by undergraduate employees, the Tailor Shop has much to offer for comparatively little. Incidentally, whatever profits there are (on the basis of the "comparatively little") go to the Student Employment Bureau to help more students pay their own way through college.

To give you an idea of the prices: a suit can be made to order (in only three or four weeks) from any material in the shop, including the Scotch woollens which are out of this world, for \$80 or \$85. The best grade of cashmere sweater—the loveliest we have ever seen—is \$17.50. In New York, the same sweater relieves you of \$22.50.

Based on prices, service and Mr. Mihan's tailoring experience, it is no wonder that alumni and fathers of undergraduates make special trips from New York to get the benefit of all three, many of them claiming that the selection of materials available there outdoes anything the big city has to offer.

A word of advice from us: this is not one of those things which should be remembered and acted upon in the dim future—the materials are there *right now*, and the summer letup makes this the time to put them to use.

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Friday, July 18th

Saturday, July 19th

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page four)

a Princeton senior, Alexander von der Luft, who had notes and papers still considered secret in his room in 1903 Hall. Despite the Army's reputation for taking years to de-classify information and records long since valueless, it was too early to determine the degree of the defendants' guilt. In taking material still considered restricted, they had let themselves in for plenty of trouble; but in shouting as loudly as it did, the circulation-hungry Sun might turn out to be hounding a couple of misguided souvenir hunters.

Miscellany. The Zoning Board has advised the borough council to increase the size of the business district in the eastern section of town, principally along Ewing Street and on both sides of Nassau east of Harrison Street, including the block where the large residence of the late Lloyd Grover stands . . . several interests have investigated the possibility of acquiring this large mansion but to date there has been no sale . . . zoning for business purposes would speed such a transaction.

Want a good job? Applications are now being received at the post office for those interested in taking civil service exams as substitute clerk-carriers . . . starting salary, \$1.04 per hour, deadline next Thursday, further details at the post office (telephone 2200.)

Daughters at Princeton Hospital to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gale, 59 Birch Avenue, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Stanton, 49 Humbert Street, Mr. & Mrs. G. Pirone, 127 Jefferson Road; a son to Mr. & Mrs. William H. Murphy, 53 Murray Place.

Roderick P. MacKinnon, pilot of the airliner which crashed in the Florida swamplands Sunday, killing him and 20 others, was the husband of Mrs. Jane Kelley MacKinnon of 30 Charlton Street . . . Professor George M. Harper, who died Monday of a sudden heart attack in his 84th year, had served on the Princeton faculty under four presidents: Patton, Wilson, Hibben and Dodds.

Princetonians who chanced by the field east of Palmer Stadium Saturday morning might have bought tickets in the flying disk derby . . . an experiment in cosmic ray research was being undertaken, with nine clusters of three balloons each bearing aloft 17 pounds of telemetering equipment . . . after rising to a height of 85,000 feet (about 16 miles) the balloons burst in accordance with plan and the equipment was recovered several hours later near Sussex, N.J., roughly 100 miles northwest of here.

BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

- Prince of Foxes — by Samuel Shellabarger
- The Moneyman — by Thomas S. Costain
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